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**Christmas Eve**  
 It has a magical spirit  
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# INPORT NEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 51 VOLUME 14

For news updated daily see [www.inportnews.ca](http://www.inportnews.ca)

■ **CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**A dinner feast among friends**

DAVE JOHNSON  
 InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — No one is a stranger during Port Colborne's Community Christmas Dinner, says one of the event's founders.

see DINNER page 2

■ **WELLAND CANAL:** Ships have to be clear of system by Dec. 30

## Ship-shape season winding down



DAVE JOHNSON  
 InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE—St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. expects to end the shipping season with 35 million tonnes of cargo having moved through the system.

"That's about 18% more than last year," said communications officer Andrew Bogora.

"The progress this year has been quite positive," Bogora said. One of the reasons for the increase in cargo is due to grain being very strong this year. With droughts hitting parts of Eastern Europe and Asia, ocean traffic into the seaway system has been very strong.

A rebound in the steel industry has also helped, as more iron ore has been moved.

see CANAL page 2

The pilot boat J.W. Cooper comes back into the Welland Canal after putting a pilot on board the Federal Rideau. The canal closes to ship traffic on Dec. 30.

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

See Inside:

**INSERTS**  
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 Wed. Dec 29  
 Thurs. Dec 30  
 Fri. Dec. 31

## ■ DINNER

# Community feast celebrates 14 years

FROM PAGE 1

Jack O'Neill says the Christmas Day dinner now in its 14th year is a place for people who may be alone on the holidays to come in and share a hot meal and become friends.

"Nobody should be alone on Christmas."

When O'Neill and fellow organizer Larry Olm started the dinner, it was held at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 56 and drew 65 people.

"We had a meal prepared for 200," O'Neill recalls.

Three years ago, the two men and volunteer co-ordi-

## ■ CANAL

FROM PAGE 1

"Iron ore is up about 49% compared to last year."

Bogora said the Welland Canal will close to shipping, weather permitting, on Thursday, Dec. 30.

"That's the final date for all ships. Salties have to clear Montreal by the 29th."

Bogora said there are no major projects planned for the winter season, just normal maintenance. Some bridges and various roads will be closed for a short period of time as work is carried out.

Bridges closures will take place at the Glendale Ave. bridge in St. Catharines; Allanburg bridge; and the Clarence St. bridge in Port Colborne. The closures will

nator Mike Feagan moved the dinner to the cafeteria at Port Colborne High School. The dinner was getting larger each year, and bigger space was required.

"Last year we had 250 people come out," says O'Neill.

More people, from young people to seniors, are coming out because they realize the dinner is not a handout. It is a get-together of friends.

"You can have all the money in the world and be alone at Christmas. It's not a great feeling. Some people have nowhere to go at Christmas. It's nice to come

out and be with friends."

Helping serve the food are between 20 to 25 volunteers from across the community.

"We have people that just can't wait to come and help us out."

We have two or three people serving food to one table, there are no more lineups," O'Neill says noting a change from the earlier buffet-style

meals Port Colborne professional firefighters have been coming out the past few years. Many area politicians have come out as well.

Most of the Christmas meal is cooked up at Port Colborne General Hospital.

"We buy the food from the hospital," O'Neill says. The meal consists of ham and turkey. All the fixings are made at the high school by volunteers to ensure everything is hot when it's time to serve people. The person who cooks the turkeys and hams at the hospital recently retired, but O'Neill says she'll be coming in anyway to help out and

make sure everything is perfect for the day.

It's that kind of dedication and volunteerism that makes the community Christmas dinner such a success each, he says.

To help pay for the food purchased from the hospital and the items prepared at the school, dinner organizers rely on business and individual donations.

Though the dinner is just 10 days away, O'Neill said volunteers and donations are still needed.

Anyone who wants to volunteer can contact Feagan at 905-884-0191.

For donations, people can

contact Olm at 905-834-6409 or O'Neill at 905-834-9289. The two men can also be contacted right up to the day of the dinner for those who want takedown but may not be able to make the dinner.

O'Neill says Port Taxi, a big supporter of the dinner since Day 1, will again be offering free taxi rides to and from the dinner. Port Taxi can be reached at 905-835-2424.

Doors for the dinner open at 12:30 p.m., with the meal being served at 1 p.m. Port High is located at 211 Elgin St.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

## Winter months will be used for maintenance on the canal

FROM PAGE 1

"Iron ore is up about 49% compared to last year."

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Bridges closures will take place at the Glendale Ave. bridge in St. Catharines; Allanburg bridge; and the Clarence St. bridge in Port Colborne. The closures will

last about two weeks and will affect vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Planned work will also impact portions of the Welland Canals Parkway road and bike path north of Lock 2, near Scott St. in St. Catharines, and at Lock 3 in the vicinity of the St. Catharines Museum.

The seaway corporation spends about \$20 million each winter to carry out maintenance and improvements to the canal. The work ensures the canal continues to operate as a safe and efficient mode of transportation and provides economic support to Niagara contractors and suppliers.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca



The Federal Rideau makes its way through the Welland Canal at Port Colborne earlier this week. The canal closes to ship traffic on Dec. 30.

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

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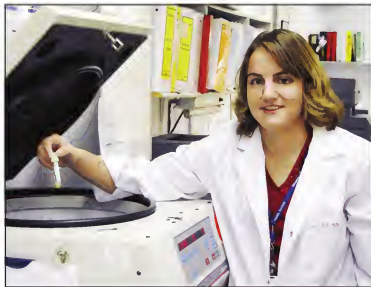
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# portraits

■ PORT HIGH CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

## Students in the workplace



More than 55 Port Colborne High school students will wrap up their first semester of co-operative education experience in mid-January. Students are working in a wide variety of placements, gaining valuable work experience and contacts in the community. Top left, Jenny Chase organizing prescriptions at Boggio IDA. Top right, Sara Wikston spends some time in the lab at Port Colborne General Hospital. Bottom left, Cody Pyle helps to prepare a boat for winter storage at Marion Marine. Bottom right, Sarah Hiseler helps to educate children about safety at the Niagara Region Children's Safety Village in Welland.

Photos special to InPort News



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## ourview

# The birth of Jesus

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that of all the world should be taxed.

(This taxing was first made when Censurus was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, (because he was of the house and lineage of David,) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

InPort News wishes all its readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## I'VE BEEN THINKING

# Crucifixion and Cross on the piece

PASTOR GARY TOMIUCH  
Wainfleet Congregational Church of Christ

This is an all important time of year in which we celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus, the Christ child. More than 2,000 years ago, God touched down on planet Earth. Eternity faded time. The omnipresent God became present in the form of a child, Jesus - God in the flesh - Emmanuel - God with us.

We join with the shepherds as they returned glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard, just as it had been told them (Luke 2:20).

We join with Mary who magnified God and rejoiced in God her Saviour. We join with the angels who said "Glory to God in the highest and on Earth peace and goodwill toward men" (Luke 2:14).

And finally we join in our praises with countless Christians down the running centuries and unto the future as we celebrate the glorious Christ event.

But that spirit of rejoicing would turn to Crucifixion. Crucifixion! My many, many years ago, I saw the cross is fused to the crib and although it is a different aspect of it, it is all of one piece. This birth of Christ is important as it

was and is the first step in the grand and glorious process of saving us from our sins. And without his death and subsequent resurrection the virgin birth would have been fruitless. That was His mission, that was God's plan and that is why Jesus came.

The world swings Away with the Manger but the Christian swings "Away in the Manger" no crib for a bed, the Little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. Yet the tender head of the baby Jesus so powdered and perfumed would become of that hymn said O sacred Head Now Wounded as those sharp thorns were cruelly driven into it. Those little hands and feet that jerked wildly and swung with glee were crushed and immobile as they were savagely nailed to that old rugged cross. See from His Head, His Hands, His Feet sorrow and life flow mingled down.

And that sweet tender voice that squealed with delight screamed out in utter agony; My God, My God why has thou forsaken me.

But the Lord Lord not only is the cross fused to the crib so is the crown. The Lord's life must always be viewed in the shadow of the cross in the light of

the crown. They cannot be separated: His birth, His death, His Resurrection, His Crib, His Cross, His crown.

You ask me how I know he lives within my heart. This is the bright side of Christmas but there is also a dark side to it. The blackness if our sins had to be forgiven. But black sins can be made white. How? If you repent and invite Jesus into your heart. "Though your sins are like scarlet they shall be made white as now" (Isaiah 1:18).

And in Revelation 7:14: "They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb? How can these things be? By once again simply responding to the Lord's invitation "Come and let him who desires take the water of life without price" (Revelation 22:17).

Come to Him and you can Truly sing "Glory to God in the highest and on Earth peace and goodwill toward all men" (Luke 2:14).

And finally if you come to Jesus you don't have to dream you can literally wash your sins away. What? For sense as your sins are washed water sin wash.

Have a Merry Christmas.

## readers'views

### South Niagara has given more than dollars

Re: Hospital fundraising stalled, Nov. 30

Bill Hallert, the CEO of the Niagara Health System Foundation blamed part of the reason for not reaching its goal on the southern part of the region. He states he understands people's attachment to local hospital but "a larger view of health care in Niagara is necessary."

Firstly, southern and central Niagara have given far more to the new hospital than the \$3 billion outlined by Mr. Hallert. Services have been cut, beds have been closed, two hospitals emergency rooms have been closed and a third is starting to see its future looking bleak.

All the money from these cuts and the rest of the cuts outlined in the hospital improvement plan should be considered diverted to operate the hospital in St. Catharines. The new hospital will be a black hole for Niagara health-care dollars, sucking more and more of the scarce health care funding into it in order to feed its insatiable appetite. That can only equate to more and more future cuts to the other centres in the rest of Niagara.

Secondly, it is ironic that the Mr.

Halletts and the Ms. Debbie Sevenpeters of the NHS keep scolding southern and central Niagara for not taking a larger view of Niagara health care when the NHS refused to do just that.

Building what will eventually be the only hospital left in Niagara in the far northwestern part of the region was not looking at the larger view of health care in Niagara. Removing emergency rooms from southern Niagara and replacing them with ambulances is not looking at the larger view of Niagara health care either. Having an urgent care centre calling 911 for a patient that is vital signs absent instead of being able to handle the crisis itself is not looking at a larger view of Niagara health care... at least not the view I want to see.

Rodney Minor  
Port Colborne

## Thanks

Christmas greetings and a heartfelt thank you go out to many in the community who helped to make our 34th Annual Christmas Festival a great success. Victims of all ages were greeted by the friendly smiles of our hardworking volunteers. Thank you to our generous sponsors: Young Automotive

Professional, Bridgeview Motors, Roggio Pharmacy, Ten Thousand Villages, Harmony on West, Canalside Pub & Eatery, The Nutty Chocolate, Allied Marine, Lester Shoals Ltd., Home Hardware, and Arabella's Tea Room. The Museum was pleased to offer traditional winter and Christmas activities to a record crowd and we look forward to seeing all of you again next year.

Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum

## Nice gesture during parade

On behalf of the residents of Northland Point I would like to say thank you to the Port Colborne fire department, the Port Colborne Optimist Club and the Port Colborne Legion Branch 56 for bringing their floats past Northland Point and the hospital following the Santa Claus parade. As most of us are unable to attend the parade it is wonderful to be able to see the floats and it was appreciated by all.

We hope to be included in your plans next year.

Shirley Oim  
Northland Point resident  
Port Colborne

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■ **CHRISTMAS:** Remembering the reason for the season

# The magical spirit of Christmas Eve

**I** come from a culture where Christmas Eve is it. It's the so-called reason for the season.

Christmas Eve is the magical night before the Big Day. It's so important to Christian-based cultures, especially European ones it seems.

Growing up in Toronto's Parkdale district in the west end off Roncesvalles Ave., Christmas Eve was something the Polish culture of the entire neighbourhood looked forward to all year long.

Wigilia, pronounced "wigilja," is the Polish name given to the entire day of Dec. 24, but specifically refers to the traditional Christmas Eve vigil supper.

According to old-country tradition, children usually decorate the Christmas tree on this day, if it has not been set up before. Ours was always set up long before so it would be ready to go for Christmas Eve.

With all of our family living in Poland, our Wigilia gatherings were small in comparison to how folks would celebrate in the old country. But they were always special.

Including my Uncle Jack, there were five of us, with Mom, Dad, Sis and me.

According to tradition, we would begin the



**George Duma**  
BY GEORGE

dinner celebration with a prayer and breaking of the Christmas wafers (opłatek, pronounced opawtek), symbolizing the bread eaten daily — our day-to-day common life) and wishing each other good fortune in the upcoming new year.

After the prayer, the opłatek is broken and pieces are given to everyone attending the table. From there, everyone breaks off a piece of their opłatek, and shares it with everyone else, wishing luck and joy in the upcoming year, for Christ has been born. This wish is usually finalized by a kiss on the cheek.

Afterward, we would sit and enjoy the meadles feast prepared by mom, with help from my sister. Wigilia is observed as a Black Fast, and as such Poles abstain from eating meat on this day.

At dinner, there were a variety of fish dishes including herring in oil, carp fillet and breaded whitefish; two kinds of pierogi, one stuffed with potatoes and cheese and the other with mushrooms



Christmas Eve is an important day to many Christian-based European cultures, especially the Polish culture. For the Duma family, it included prayer, a meatless family feast, gift exchanges and midnight mass.

and cabbage; a red beet soup called barszcz with uszka, which were small wild-mushroom-filled dumplings; kapusta, a sweet yet savory cabbage dish I

can still taste to this day. The meal was amazing, a mesmerizing and complex combination of simplicity and extravagance.

After dinner, we would

make our way to the chairs and sofas surrounding the Christmas tree, where gifts spread out from underneath. Tradition has it that children hand out the gifts to the adults.

We were always finished in plenty of time to get bundled up and make our way, walking, down Wright Ave. to Roncesvalles and south toward Lake Ontario to St. Kazimierz's Church for midnight mass.

I can recall more than one time dozing off in the pew as a youngster during the homily, the priest's sermon. By the time we got home from mass, I would be done, finished.

There would be no playing with toys that night. The next morning and the rest of Christmas Day, it was time to play with new toys, see friends and compare notes.

"What did you get?" My favourite gifts were always the Dinky toys and Corgi toys, small steel replicas of the cars of the day. I could play with those

for hours.

We never, ever had turkey for dinner on Christmas Day; Dad hated it. So we would invariably have capon with potatoes and vegetables.

Compared to Wigilia, Christmas Day was a subdued affair, anticlimactic to the previous 24 hours, when the anticipation of Christ's birth propelled the day's events.

But it was still a special time, carrying on the celebration of the birth. And so it continues.

May you all have an amazing Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

May the season bring you health, happiness and the promise of an amazing 2011.

And may we all be blessed with peace.

*George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at: gduma@copeco.ca*



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### ■ MANUFACTURING: Helping students

## Local businesses donate to metal shop classes at Port High

For InPort News

**PORT COLBORNE** — Several local business have stepped up to assist the manufacturing technology students at Port Colborne High School create their end of their end of the year projects.

Oskam Steel, JTL Machine and Dressel Steel all donated various items such as Welding test plate, flat bar, machine tooling, and welding rods.

Metal shop teacher, Vic Barker said, "Getting donations helps take some stress off the class. Getting the proper supplies on a limited budget is always on my mind. These students are very capable and really want to showcase their skills on the end of the year projects... now they can. These donations will last several months."

The students create items such as coffee tables, benches, wine racks, plant stands, etc.

Co-op teacher Shawn



Supplied photo

Manufacturing technology students from Port Colborne High School stand in and beside an Oskam Steel truck. Several businesses, including Oskam, donated material to the manufacturing technology program at the high school.

Coers made the initial contact with the businesses.

"There was no hesitation on their end. They all said just make a wish list and asked

when we needed it by? We are very fortunate to have such great business partners in our community," said Coers.

"All of these donations have

come from companies that are also co-op employers so they recognize that the more opportunities we give these students the better off our entire community is."

Oskam Steel's Kevin Langerak said, "It's our pleasure to help local schools. It's also good business because so many of our workers have come through Port High and its manufacturing class."

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## ALONG THE LAKESHORE

## FRIDAY, DEC. 31

New Years Eve Band Show @ THE HUB. Doors open at 8 p.m. Cost \$5 per person — includes party favours and snacks featuring The Autumn Crush, Universal Thought and Those Damn Medalling Kids. This is an all ages event.

AT THE PORT COLBORNE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
New: Winter Week Kids Activities

Tuesday, Jan. 4th, 2:30-3:30 p.m. make a "New Year's Resolution" bank; Wednesday, January 5th, 10:30-11:30 a.m. do "Extraordinary Experiments"; fun science experiments and a short craft; Thursday, January 6th, 2:30-3:30 p.m. make "Something Fishy" — an Aquarium Wall Plaque. For ages four and older. Cost: \$3.00 per child. Pre-registration is required.

Small Hands Studio: Art Workshops for Children. With Kelly Langley Davies. Painting, drawing and sculpting. Mondays, 6 pm to 7:30 pm. Jan. 10 to June 27. Each five-

week session costs \$65. Save \$5.00 per child per session when you book two or more siblings in the same session. Call Kelly at 905-834-8483 for more information.

Knitting Classes: The 10-week Winter session starts Tues., Jan. 11, 7 to 9 p.m. and Thurs. Jan. 13th, 1 to 3 p.m. For more information or to join the Knitters' Club, call Vicki Fretz at 905-835-5373.

Kids' Yoga with Nadia Esposito. For ages 4 to 11. Tuesdays, from 4 to 5 p.m. New 8 week session begins Tuesday, Jan. 18 to March 8. Cost: \$35, or \$5 per drop-in. To register call Nadia at 905-329-9841.

Art in the Atrium: "The Subject is Clear: an Exhibition of Paintings in Pastel" by Rey Baecher. In the Atrium, October 15, 2010 to January 15, 2011.

ONGOING  
March of Dimes is celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2011 and needs your help. The charity is seeking volunteers in Welland and Port Colborne to help support its Door-to-Door Campaign in

January. Please join a sixty-year tradition of generosity and help children and adults with disabilities in your community. We still need canvassers and captains to join the campaign. For more information or to volunteer please call 1-800-263-3463 ext. 7705 or e-mail door-2door@marchofdimes.ca. To learn more about March of Dimes' programs and ser-

vices for people with disabilities, please visit [www.marchofdimes.ca](http://www.marchofdimes.ca).

Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region Support Groups for Caregivers meets the first Tuesday of each month (except for July and August) at 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Rapelle Lodge, 277 Plymouth Rd., Welland. For more information call 905-687-3914.

Port Colborne Ontario Early Years Centre offers interactive play sessions, mornings: Monday to Friday from 9-12 and afternoons: Monday to Thursday from 1-4. These programs are for children under the age of six years and their parent or caregiver and are free of charge. Please visit the Ontario Early Years Centre, Port Cares, 92 Charlotte St.,

Port Colborne or call 905-834-9071 ext. 238 or email [oeyc-pc@portcares.on.ca](mailto:oeyc-pc@portcares.on.ca) for more information.

Computer workshops and one-on-one training are available at the Wellfleet Township Public Library Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Please call the Library at 905-899-1277 to book an appointment.

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**EYE EXAMS ARRANGED**

■ **ROOKIE:** Angie Spiece the latest hire for fire service

# Above of firefighting

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — As soon as Angie Spiece came through the doors on her first shift, the tones in the fire hall went off and she was off to her first call as a full-time firefighter.

It was a medical call. It was exciting, Spiece said of her first day in a new career.

The 24-year-old is Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services' first full-time female firefighter. She started on Nov. 23, when she filled a vacancy created by a retirement.

"I have no family in the fire service and I didn't know anyone. My mom knew someone who said they were looking for volunteers and that it might be good to try out."

In October 2005, at age 18, Spiece applied to become a volunteer. Through testing and training, she became a member of the city's volunteer department in February 2006 and was given a pager, which alerts volunteers to calls. Her mother, Henriette Prun, joined her and continues to serve as a volunteer firefighter for Port Colborne.

While a volunteer firefighter, Spiece was also going to school to become a massage therapist. She finished the program and has been working as a massage therapist in Welland ever since. She will be going up that job as soon as she can find some-

one to take over her clients.

"I knew I wouldn't be a massage therapist forever," she says.

Spiece "fell in love" with firefighting as a volunteer and came to know she wanted to make it her career.

Juggling the two jobs over the past three weeks has been somewhat hectic but things have been slow for the fire department recently, with mostly medical calls. In between those calls, Spiece, who was also a waitress at Canalside Pub and Eatery, has been carrying out the day-to-day work on the fire hall floor and getting trained at the same time.

"We'll go over a truck and make sure everything is where it's supposed to be and that things are working properly," she says, adding volunteer firefighters use the same equipment so everything has to be right.

In addition to equipment checks, there will be critiques of calls she's been on and more training.

Spiece has already received training in forced entry and auto extrication. She has her DZ licence, which allows her to operate any of the fire trucks in service and she's a pump operator, which means she's responsible for operating the pumps on pumper trucks that let water flow to fire hoses.

"I'd like to get more involved with our technical rescue team," she says.

That team trains in water



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo  
Angie Spiece stands in front of one of the trucks she'll be operating with Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services. Spiece is the first full-time female firefighter hired by Port Colborne. She started her first shift Nov. 23.

and ice rescue and rope rescue. She'd also like to get more involved with the training division.

In the three weeks she's been with the service, the rookie says, everybody has been really good to her and everything has been fair.

"Nothing's really changed,"

she said of the switch from volunteer to full time. Being volunteer meant she already knew every firefighter in the service.

"I enjoy working with all of the guys ... It's a lot like a family," says Spiece, who will be on shift with Capt. Joe Henry and firefighter Mike

Radzicki.

She'll be spending a lot of time with her fellow firefighters, as fulltime members work 10-hour day shifts and 14-hour night shifts.

"I'm really happy. This is a job I can't wait to do forever."

Spiece is the latest hire for the fire service, which hires

internally.

"It's a big step from being a volunteer going into full time," says Chief Tom Cartwright.

Even though Spiece had limited experience as a volunteer, during the hiring process, which consists of tests and interviews, she came out on top, the chief says.

Spiece did testing at Brock University, going through physical, aptitude, clinical, swim and other tests, before receiving a certificate showing she was able to do the job. From there, she submitted her resume to the fire service and had to undergo further testing and interviews.

"During the course of her years as a volunteer, she's performed well in the field. I've never had a complaint about her work ethic, her ability to perform or her willingness to learn," Cartwright says.

All of her previous training and the fact she has her DZ licence meant the fire service didn't have to spend a lot of time training her how to do things. It's a reason the fire service hires internally.

"Hiring internally does a couple of things for us," Cartwright says. "First, we have people who are familiar with the city, with our equipment, all of the rules and regulations. It's also a great motivator for those who may want to take on a career as a full-time firefighter."

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■ **STONE HOUSE:** Art gallery opens on King St.

# Dream comes true

KAESHA FORAND  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — Owning her art gallery has always been a dream for Kathleen Thorsen.

Her work has been displayed at galleries across Ontario and finally she has transformed a portion of her home into a gallery and held a grand opening last weekend.

The Stone House Gallery at 44 King St. now features her gem inspired paintings and work by Esa Nieminen.

She has owned the Stone House — Port Colborne's oldest house dating back to 1835 and transformed the front two rooms for the gallery which will be open during the weekend and on weeknights for private viewings by appointment.

"It's such a public house, people should come and see it,"

Thorsen's work has been displayed in Ayr, near Cambridge, had an exhibit at O's in Port Colborne and is now displaying her interest in gems and reproducing them. She was once a teacher but had to leave her profession and became a full-time artist. She also teaches art lessons at the Port Colborne Library Tuesday mornings and lessons in the afternoon at the Wainfleet Library.

"My paintings can be abstract and I'm very interested in gems. I incorporate them into the painting by doing a study of it."

The gallery's theme through February is winter birch tree because her other work includes close ups of birch bark.

Nieminen's paintings fea-



Port Colborne artist Esa Nieminen, above, displays his landscape art on canvas and on rock slate that is on display at the Stone House Gallery. Port Colborne artist Kathleen Thorsen, right, officially opened the Stone House Gallery at 44 King St. last weekend. It will be open on the weekends for people to visit and purchase artwork.

KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

ture landscapes with texture. He paints landscapes on pieces of rock slate. see artwork during the week call 905-834-9784.

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## Announcement



### David Barrick, B.A. (Hon), R.I.B.(O)

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• Roll to 1/8 inch thickness. Cut into 3 inch x 2 inch strips. Place 1 inch apart on ungreased baking sheets. Prick with fork. Bake at 325° F. for 20 - 25 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned.

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## ■ CHRISTMAS DONATION



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

TD Canada Trust staff in Port Colborne, from left, Julie Shukis, Scott Brown and Nancy Acaster show some of the toys donated by bank customers. The toys, collected since Dec. 1, were to be donated to Santa's Helpers.

## ■ CHRISTMAS LUNCH



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Carmen Brunet serves shepherd's pie to Ecole Saint Joseph students Danielle Blodeau, left, and Alexis Beauline at Le Centre Polyvalent des Aînes Francophones, last week. For the past seven years, students at the school have been welcomed to the centre for a special Christmas lunch.



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Ecole Saint Joseph students enjoy lunch at Le Centre Polyvalent des Aînes Francophones, Monday afternoon. Below, Centre Polyvalent des Aînes Francophones volunteer Marie Cote prepares plates of cake for students.



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■ BANDS: Music throughout night

# Ring in 2011 at The Hub

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The Hub and Ubersouth are offering Port Colborne youths a fun and safe night out New Year's Eve.

The Hub will host a party and band show from Friday, Dec. 31.

Doors open at 8 p.m. and the event will wrap up just after midnight. Ubersouth members worked with The Hub's Bradley Shea to put on their event.

Bands playing at the

event include Those Damn Medalling Kids, Universal Thought, Autumn Crush and Avoiding the Afterlife.

Admission is \$5, which includes snacks and party favours. It is a non-alcohol, all-ages event.

Ubersouth is a group of young people — there are about 30 members now — who organized in 2006 after becoming tired of planning there was nothing to do in the city.

The youth originally met with the board of directors of Community Living and

asked for permission to use its centre on McRae Ave. as a home base.

They got approval and have been getting together and planning activities and outings ever since.

The group has hosted Rock in the Park as well as Canal Days Idol and other band shows in the city.

All proceeds from the New Year's Eve event will be given to The Hub for more youth programs.

Tickets can be bought at The Hub, located inside the Guild Hall at 72 Charlotte St.

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If you are planning a vacation for Christmas or March break it is time to start thinking about vaccinations and travel medicine that you may need.

It is very important for travelers to get their hepatitis vaccinations. Hepatitis A is spread through contaminated food and water. The vaccine is best given as two doses 6 months apart. Hepatitis B is spread through sexual contact, piercings, contaminated medical equipment etc. It can be a problem for patients if you need medical attention while away. The usual 3-dose schedule for the hep B vaccine is at 0, 1, and 6 months. There is a combined vaccine for both hep A and B. There are other dosing schedules available if you are running out of time, but you should consult the doctor or pharmacist about what dosing schedule is best for you. You should also have your children vaccinated if they are travelling with you.

There are no vaccines for hepatitis C, D, and E, but they are less common in travelers. Hep C and D are spread through blood, and hep E is spread through the oral-fecal route. It is best to avoid high-risk activities such as piercings, acupuncture and tattooing, as well as to be careful about food and water precautions and hand washing to avoid these forms of hepatitis.

Traveler's diarrhea plagues many individuals. It is caused by eating or drinking food or water contaminated with germs. If you have three or more episodes of diarrhea in one day, you probably have traveler's diarrhea. Your doctor can prescribe an antibiotic for you to take with you if you run in to trouble. You want to get enough antibiotics to last for three days. If you don't develop fever or blood in your stool you can take Imodium with your antibiotic. If you are travelling with children and they develop traveler's diarrhea you need to take special care to help them avoid dehydration.

There is also an oral traveler's Diarrhea vaccination called Dukoral. Presently the vaccine is being recommended to high-risk patients. This would include patients who are immunosuppressed, patient's with chronic illness, and those who have had many bouts of traveler's diarrhea.

For certain destinations Malaria prophylaxis is also being recommended. Recently travelers to the Dominican Republic have been advised to take antimalarial medication. Patients travelling to high risk areas can prevent Malaria infection by avoiding mosquito bites and taking certain medications. Some areas are resistant to medications that are available. Travelers should learn what the best medication is for the area they will be travelling to. It is best to go to a travel clinic to see what medications they recommend for your destination. Some of the medications need to be started the week before departure so it is best not to leave getting these medications until the last minute.

In order to prepare yourself and your family for an upcoming vacation do some research in to what vaccines and precautions need to be taken at your destination. Give yourself plenty of time to get in to the doctor and get your prescriptions. Some of the vaccines need to be started at least six months before you leave. If you plan ahead everyone can have a safe and healthy vacation.

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## ■ PORT CARES DONATION



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Port Cares development officer Pam Swick-Janjac, left, and executive director Lynda Reinhart accept \$1,377.20 from Bob Ferrara of the Canadian Million Dollar Round Table Foundation. The funds will be put toward building a toddlers area inside Port Cares Reach Out Centre, which is undergoing expansion.

## ■ NEW COMPLEX: Westside to be used until new centre opens

# Teeder Kennedy Youth Arena closing in March

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

COLBORNE — Port Colborne will be moving down to one arena.

The decision to close the Teeder Kennedy Youth Arena at the end of March came last week when councillors learned the early closure of the facility would about \$500,000 in savings that could be directed toward the new Thomas A. Lannan Sports Complex.

"We looked at possible cost savings if the arena was not open during the construction period," said Gary Makins, manager of community services.

The early closure is also expected to yield an estimated \$400,000 in savings from operational costs, he said. Also, by turning the full facilities site over to the general contractor when construction begins, the city will save nearly \$100,000 by not needing to reroute utilities to keep Teeder Kennedy operational.

"The city is a conservative number, it could actually be higher," operations and engineering director Ron Hanson said of the potential savings.

The estimate excludes the costs the city will save in facility upgrades and repairs to the arena over the additional two years it's closed, said Mayor Vance Badawey.

The arena will be closed at the end of this ice season — March 2011 — and will leave

the city with only one arena for a year and a half to two years, until the new centre is expected to be operational.

Tendering on the project is expected in January, with construction slated to commence in March.



Vance  
Badawey

City staff met with arena user groups on Nov. 18 to determine the effect the early closure would have.

Makins said,

"Not everyone attended but many did," he said, adding a majority agreed that the potential cost savings would warrant early decommissioning of the facility.

Makins said staff reviewed the ice time used at Teeder Kennedy and compared it to that of West Side Arena. They looked for ice hours to accommodate groups at West Side during the construction period, he said.

A total of 41.5 ice hours are used weekly at the youth arena and there are a total 22 vacant hours available at West Side Arena. Hours are more readily available throughout the week, Makins said, but "where the big crunch comes" is with "prime time" weekend hours.

Children's groups will be given priority, as well as Port Colborne Minor Hockey, junior B hockey and high school hockey, he said.

A clause will be included to ensure any group displaced from either their regular day of the week or their time of day will have the option to reclaim the rental time once

the new facility opens.

Port Colborne Minor Hockey Association has been in talks with minor hockey groups in Wainfleet, Welland and Port Erie to see where needed ice time for the association could be accommodated, Makins said.

"We understand there will be some pain but this is almost half a million dollars in savings. We have to try."

Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele, who's president of Port's minor hockey association, said groups who attended the ice users meeting all "see

short-term pain for long-term gain."

"Please don't get the impression Port Colborne can operate with one arena," Steele said.

adding some ice time will have to be moved out of town during the closure.

"We're working with our staff to ensure we can provide the best new facility possible and save taxpayers some extra money," he said.

Steele's Ward 1 counterpart Dave Elliott said the question every citizen will ask is "Is it worth it?"

Port Colborne can afford to close down one arena for two years and still justify building an additional two.

The centre and its two proposed arenas were "the biggest complaint" Elliott said he heard while on the campaign trail for the October election.

He expressed concerns that some arena users who travel out of town to obtain ice time "won't come back."

Makins said he believes the new facility will draw users back and even attract new users from Port Colborne and surrounding municipalities to utilize the state-of-the-art centre.

The recommendation for early closure of the arena was carried unanimously by council.

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## ■ FIREFIGHTER RETIRES



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo  
Capt. Wayne Benner Sr. of Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services is hanging up his hat after 33 years. The longtime firefighter was honoured during Monday night's city council meeting when presented with a plaque and framed photo by Mayor Vance Badawey, centre, and fire Chief Tom Cartwright, right.

## ■ RETIREMENT



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

After working 44 years for Niagara Regional Police, Carolyn Miller has retired from her position as Port Colborne's district administration clerk. Miller was honoured by the city during Monday night's council meeting, and presented a plaque by Mayor Vance Badawey.

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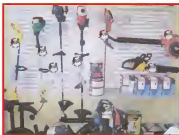


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**Notices**

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# Person to Person A300

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# LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on behalf of YMCA OF NIAGARA application will be made to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario for an Act to amend The Young Men's Christian Association of St. Catharines Act, 1929 to provide that YMCA of Niagara may acquire and hold real property or any interest in real property in The Regional Municipality of Niagara; YMCA of Niagara may establish branch associations in The Regional Municipality of Niagara; and beginning January 1, 2010 and, as defined in the Assessment Act, in The Regional Municipality of Niagara, is exempt for taxation for municipal and school purposes, except for local improvement rates, if it is occupied by and used solely for the purposes of YMCA of Niagara; and YMCA of Niagara is a registered charity within the meaning of the Income Tax Act (Canada).

The application will be considered by the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills. Any person who has an interest in the application and who wishes to make submissions for or against the application, to the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills should notify, in writing, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A2.

Dated at the City of St. Catharines this 8th day of December, 2010.

J. Rodney Bush  
Solicitor for the Applicant  
Sullivan Mahoney LLP  
Lawyers  
40 Queen Street, P.O. Box 1360  
St. Catharines, ON L2R 6Z2  
Tel: (905) 688-6655  
Fax: (905) 688-5814

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## ■ READERS REMEMBER



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Mary Lou Whitty will never forget the cherished Christmas present she received not long ago, learning who her biological mother is and of the siblings she had never known.

## Home for the holidays — at long last

MARY LOU WHITTY  
For InPort News

**PORT COLBORNE** — "Mom, I found your family." With these words and tears streaming down her face, Colleen, our daughter, handed me a small Christmas box. A single piece of paper with the names and phone numbers of my two brothers and sister was inside.

This information had taken six years of research. Finally, the government had opened up adoption laws. In November, the papers had arrived with my mother's name and "my" name, which was Mary Paula. I was so excited to know that my adopted parents kept my given name and added Louise

in the middle, so I became Mary Lou Paula.

My daughter's husband Barry made the first contact with my new family. They all resided in the St. Catharines area.

He talked to my eldest brother Jim and later to Dan, my youngest brother. I finally met my sister Paula, and she shared pictures of my grandmother, grandfather and, of course, my mother, Pauline. My sister had lived with my mother in the family home in St. Catharines.

Last Christmas, I was able to tell my children and husband the incredible story and connect them to their maternal roots.

It has been a wonderful year of gatherings with both sides

of our families, new loving in-laws, and many nieces and nephews. Especially wonderful for our 20 grandchildren who found they had lovely cousins their ages.

I am so very blessed, even at this age of 70, to have found such loving siblings, Jim, Dan and Paula.

They welcomed me and shared much of my mother's life with me. I pray thankfully to mom and dad, and especially mother Pauline for their love and guidance.

God bless us everyone, and merry Christmas.

*Readers Remember is a series of stories based on Christmas season experiences submitted by Tribune readers. It appears daily through Dec. 24.*

## ■ READERS REMEMBER

# Grandparents are a big part of Christmas

SHEILA BROWN  
For InPort News

**PORT COLBORNE** — Having lost my grandmother recently at the age of 97 years, it has made me think how lucky that I was to have had her for so long.

My grandparents were a big part of Christmas for our family. We were the joining of two cultures. My dad's family being Italian, and my mom's family coming from Nova Scotia.

Christmas was all about church, family visiting and, of course, food.

Christmas Day, after we had attended church in the morning, we would head to Nonna and Nonno Falconi's for food and family visiting. Serving relatives was always such fun, and playing with cousins as well.

Nonna didn't bake so much, but her pasta and soups were delicious, as well as all the other Italian dishes she cooked up. We would head home at night happy, and then tired.

My Grampa and Gramma Foley were born and raised in Nova Scotia.

Gramma was a wonderful baker. She brought many recipes of homemade doughnuts, gumdrops, pound and sultana cakes, homemade raisin bread, fudge, and cookies and squares with her. She passed them down to my mother who in turn became a wonderful baker as well.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Sheila Brown holds photos of her father's parents in her right hand and her mother's parents in her left hand.

The baking would start at the beginning of December, and everyone looked so forward to it. After I was married, my husband and I and my two boys had the tradition of attending church on Christmas Eve and then going to Gramma's for a wonderful meal.

This is the first Christmas without a grandparent in my life. I cherish the memories and relish the wonderful times that I spent with them.

*Readers Remember is a series of stories based on Christmas season experiences submitted by Tribune readers.*

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